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The Numerical Features of the Book of Joshua

Labuschagne, C.J.

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The Numerical Features of the Book of Joshua

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [Introduction to the Torah Project](#)

Introduction to the Logotechnical Analysis of the Book of Joshua

In terms of the narrative thread of the Torah, running from Genesis 1,1 to Deuteronomy 34,12, the book of Joshua is the logical follow-up on the book of Deuteronomy. Having proclaimed YHWH's laws in Deuteronomy, Moses dies and is succeeded by Joshua, the main character in the book bearing his name. As a matter of fact, the book of Joshua stresses the continuity of leadership from Moses to Joshua and depicts Joshua as the guardian of the Law of Moses. Moreover, the book of Joshua complements the story of Ancient Israel in the Torah by relating the *fulfilment* of YHWH's promise to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

This gives substance to the concept of a Hexateuch (Genesis-Joshua) which came into scholarly use since the time of Kuenen and Wellhausen.¹ However, this concept has never found wide acceptance in contrast to Martin Noth's thesis that Genesis-Numbers should be differentiated from the Books Deuteronomy-Joshua through Kings, which he regarded as a unified history of Israel written by a single author/compiler, the Deuteronomist.²

However, this thesis is highly questionable. First, there is no evidence for the existence of a Tetrateuch as a distinct literary entity, nor was there any reason for writing a book that tells the story of Israel only until the arrival of the twelve tribes in the Plains of Moab. Second, the concept of a 'Deuteronomistic History of Ancient Israel' starting with a certain Moses addressing the Israelites, so to say out of the blue on the eastern border of Canaan, is totally inconceivable.

For these and other reasons Noth's concept of a Deuteronomistic History should definitely be abandoned in favour of the view that the books of Genesis-Kings were conceived as one great historic work: the Story of Israel from the creation of the world to the fall of the Kingdom of Judah.³ I hope to show that a logotechnical analysis of the Books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings can provide new and cogent supplementary evidence in support of the thesis that these books together with the Torah constitute one distinct literary entity.

Therefore, when I started analysing Joshua, it did not surprise me to encounter exactly the same compositional techniques as I found in the Torah, more specifically the use of the divine name numbers **17** and **26** to weave the name of YHWH into the fabric of the text, to structure and finalize it and to highlight certain crucial sections of it. The following overview shows the extent to which **17** and **26** govern and highlight specific passages in the text. See also my [article from 2008](#).

§ 1	1,1-4,14	42 of the 73 verses (58%) and 776 of the 1271 words (61%)
§ 2	4,15-5,12	22 of the 22 verses (100%) and 357 of the 357 (21x 17) words (100%)
§ 3	5,13-6,25	28 of the 28 verses (100%) and 510 of the 510 (30x 17) words (100%)
§ 4	6,26-7,26	10 of the 28 verses (36%) and 216 of the 524 words (41%)
§ 5	8,1-35	22 of the 35 verses (63%) and 400 of the 616 words (65%)
§ 6	9,1-12,24	51 of the 117 verses (44%) and 770 of the 1837 words (42%)
§ 7	13,1-19,51	79 of the 218 verses (36%) and 802 of the 2620 words (38%)
§ 8	20,1-21,45	39 of the 55 verses (71%) and 556 of the 755 words (74%)
§ 9	22,1-34	22 of the 34 verses (65%) and 421 of the 688 words (61%)
§ 10	23,1-16	14 of the 16 verses (88%) and 241 of the 299 words (81%)
§ 11	24,1-33	10 of the 31 verses (32%) and 145 of the 574 words (27%)
Grand Total		335 of the 658 verses (51%) and 5144 of the 10051 words (53%)

¹ For a recent argument for the Hexateuch, see J. Milgrom, *Numbers* (JPS Torah Commentary), 1990, xiii-xix, and D.A. Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999, 97-102.

² Martin Noth, *Überlieferungsgeschichtliche Studien*, 1943; 2. unveränderte Auflage: Tübingen, 1957.

³ Recently defended by Jan-Wim Wesselijs, *The Origin of the History of Israel: Herodotus's Histories as Blueprint for the First Books of the Bible* (JSOTS, 345), Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press/Continuum, 2002. I intend to return to, and argue for, this thesis in a separate article after my analysis of the book of Kings.

In comparison with the books of the Torah, the average percentage in the book of Joshua is somewhat lower than that in the Torah, for in Genesis it is **71%** of the verses and **79%** of the words, and in Exodus it is **73%** of the verses and **73%** of the words. The difference can be explained as due to large sections of the text in 10-19 which contain geographical information and lists of cities. In 13-19 it is only **36%** of the verses and **38%** of the words. However, as I shall show below, the second half of the book (13,1-24,31, excluding 24,32-33, which is a secondary Appendix) has altogether **4896 (288x17)** words, which brings the average for the book as a whole to **79%**. In any case, a considerable number of passages throughout the book are highlighted by the two divine name numbers, which were continuously woven into the fabric of the text to signify YHWH's presence through his name in the events described and the words spoken.

Let me give some salient examples of the use of **17** and **26** and their multiples in order to let the reader get an idea of this most intriguing compositional technique which is used in Joshua in much the same way as in the books of the Torah:

1. כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל, 'All Israel', occurs **17x** (3,7.17; 4,14; 7,24.25; 8,15.21.24.33; 10,15.29.31.34.36.38.43; 23,2).
2. The story of Rahab and the spies she protected (2,8-24): **289 (17x17)** words.
3. The instructions given by the officers for the mobilization and invasion (3,1-4): **68 (4x17)** words.
4. Joshua's orders for the erection of twelve stones representing the tribes (4,4-13): **187 (11x17)** words.
5. The sojourn at Gilgal: circumcision and Pesach (4,15-5,12): **357 (21x17)** words.
6. Warfare: the destruction of Jericho under the ban (5,13-6,25): **510 (30x17)** words.
7. Joshua's curse laid upon Jericho and Achan's theft of forbidden things (6,26-7,1): **52 (2x26)** words.
8. Joshua sends spies to explore the city of Ai (7,2-3): **52 (2x26)** words.
9. Joshua takes measures to have Achan stoned (7,24-26): **78 (3x26)** words.
10. The destruction of Ai and the massacre of the inhabitants (8,18b-29): **204 (12x17)** words.
11. The ceremonies at Mount Ebal, the founding of a nation in Canaan (8,30-35): **119 (7x17)** words.
12. The overview of all the land conquered by Joshua (11,10-20): **208 (8x26)** words.
13. The list of the 31 kings killed on the west bank of the Jordan (12,7-24): **26 + 119(7x17)** words.
14. The distribution of land by Moses among the Transjordanian tribes (13,8-14): **102 (6x17)** words.
15. The inheritances of Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun and Issachar (18,11-19,23): **442 (17x26)** words.
16. The inheritances of Asher, Naphtali and Dan (19,24-48): **221 (13x17)** words.
17. The inheritances of these **7** tribes taken together (18,11-19,48): **663 (39x17)** words.
18. Chapters 13-22 have altogether **4063 (239x17)** words.
19. In 15,1-16,10 the inheritances of Judah and Ephraim is made up of **676 (26x26)** words.
20. In 18,21-28 the list of the 14 Benjaminite cities is made up of **52 (2x26)** words.
21. Joshua dispatches the Transjordanian tribes and blesses them (22,1-6): **102 (6x17)** words.
22. The words spoken by the Israelites accusing the Transjordanian tribes (22,16-20): **104 (4x26)** words.
23. The Transjordanian tribes defend themselves (22,21-28): **52 (2x26) + 52 + 51 (3x17)** words.
24. Joshua's admonitory charge to the people, including the introduction (23,1-13): **208 (8x26)** words.
25. In Chapters 1-4 YHWH speaks altogether **221 (13x17)** words (4 speeches).
26. In Chapters 1-12 YHWH speaks altogether **520 (20x26)** words (14 speeches).
27. YHWH's very last speech (20,1-6) is made up of **104 (4x26)** words.
28. The numerical features of YHWH's *message* quoted by Joshua in 24,2-13, in which YHWH refers to the three crucial events in the history of Israel, are most significant:
 1. The birth of Jacob and Esau, land given to Esau and Jacob's arrival in Egypt (v. 4): **17** words.
 2. The sojourn of Abraham's descendants in Egypt and in the Wilderness (vs. 5-7): **51** words.
 3. Their arrival on the west bank of the Jordan and the conquest of Jericho (vs. 11-12): **34** words.

These characteristic numerical features of the divine speeches demonstrate the utmost care with which they were composed and how the author/redactor used them to express the belief that YHWH is the Lord of history who continually gives directions for action to Joshua and the Israelites. In much the same way as in the Torah the divine speeches constitute the backbone of the book. See the table at the end of the file. These examples must suffice to demonstrate that Joshua is an ingeniously designed, meticulously composed numerical work of art. For particulars scrutinize the tables and the Observations below.

The Compositional Structure of the Book of Joshua

There is no general agreement about the division of the text. Hendrik Koorevaar has compiled an impressive list of no less than 31 different divisions, ranging from 2 to 15 parts.⁴ However, a considerable number of commentators agree on a tripartite structure. Nevertheless, Koorevaar still found nine different tripartite divisions (for full particulars, see Koorevaar, pp. 95-97):

C.F. Keil 1874	W. Möller 1934	A. Schultz 1980	W. Scroggie 1940	J.S. Baxter 1958	H.W. Herzberg 1953	M. Noth 1938; 1971 ³	J.A. Soggin 1972	G.W. Anderson 1964
1,1-9	1-2	1-4	1,1-5,12	1-5	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12
1,10-12,24	3-21	5-12	5,13-12,24	6-12	13-19	13,1-21,42	13-21	13-22
13-24	22-24	13-24	13-24	13-24	20-24	21,43-24,33	22-24	23-24

J.H. Kroeze (COT, 1968) and R.D. Nelson (OTL, 1997) divide the text into paragraphs: 44 and 28 respectively. Seeing that sevenfold structures are very popular in biblical texts, R.G. Bowling (AB, 1982) has proposed a heptadic structure: **I: 1,1-5,12; II: 5,13-11,23; III: 12-19; IV: 20-21; V: 22; VI: 23; VII: 24**. However, despite the profuse use of heptadic structures in the Torah, I found not a single instance in Joshua. It is precisely in this respect that the book of Joshua differs from the books of the Torah.

The logotechnical analysis of Joshua has shown that a study of the numerical features of the text can shed new light on the architecture of the book bringing some order in the chaos of the 31 individual divisions.

My first crucial observation was that there is a clear break in the text after Chapter 12, which marks the completion of the conquest with a list of the **31** Canaanite kings slain by Joshua. This important seam in the text is underscored by the following numerical considerations:

First, the use of the number **31** referring to the Canaanite kings slain by Joshua:

Joshua 12, which contains a list of the **31** Canaanite kings, is made up of **248** (8×31) words.

Joshua 1-12 is made up of **5115** words, likewise a multiple of **31** (165×31);

Joshua 1-11 have a number of words that prelude on the killing of the **31** kings: **4867** (157×31);

Joshua 1,1-4,14 is made up of **1271** words, which is also a multiple of **31** (41×31);

In Joshua 1,1-5,12 the root עָבַר, 'to cross'/'edge'/'bank', occurs **31** times.

Second, the use of **11**, the number of fulfilment, to signify the completion of the conquest:

Joshua 1-8, about the mobilization and the capture of Jericho and Ai, has **3278** (298×11) words.

Joshua 8,1-35 has altogether **616** words, which is also a multiple of **11** (56×11). See Observation 4!

Joshua 9-12, which deals with the subsequent conquests after the capture of Jericho and Ai, is made up of **1837** (167×11) words and **7216** (656×11) letters.

These observations can only be interpreted as conclusive evidence that Chapters 1-12 have carefully been finalized, rounded off and sealed as a distinct literary unit. Moreover, they suggest a bipartite structure for the book, that is to say, provided that the second half, Chapters 13 through the end, can be proved to be also a finalized and sealed literary unit. In order to do so, we first have to ascertain where the book ends: at the very last verse (24,33), or with the death and burial of Joshua (24,29-31).

Consequently, if v. 31 marks the end of the book, then vs. 32-33 must be an *Appendix* which was secondarily attached. Once again the numerical aspects of the text can help us decide whether this is so: The second half of the book, Part III-IV (13,1-24,31) is made up of **4896** (288×17) words, by which it was rounded off and sealed as a distinct unit. This conclusively proves that it originally ended at v. 31.⁵

⁴ H.J. Koorevaar, *De opbouw van het boek Jozua*, Academisch proefschrift, Centrum voor Bijbelse Vorming België: Heverlee, 1990, pp. 95-102.

⁵ Two commentators, B. Alfrink, *Josue* (De Boeken van het Oude Testament), J.J. Romen en Zonen Uitgevers: Roermond & Maaseik, 1952, pp. 116f., and H. Möller, *Alttestamentliche Bibelkunde*, Berlin, 1986, pp. 105-106, regard vs. 29-33 as an Epilogue/Appendix. However, since vs. 29-31 deal specifically with the death and burial of Joshua, these verses must be part of the preceding passage. Thus, the Appendix consists only of vs. 32-33.

In this respect, it is important to note that v. 31 functions as a cliffhanger – a literary device that is frequently used in the narrative literature of TNK:⁶

*“Israel served YHWH throughout the lifetime of Joshua
and of the elders who outlived Joshua, and who knew all that YHWH had done for Israel.”*

The cliffhanger leaves the reader in suspense and anxious to know what happened after the death of Joshua and these elders, and opens the way to the continuation of the story of Israel in the book of Judges. The overall structure of Joshua appears to be based on the architecture of the book of Numbers, which has basically a bipartite structure, of which each of the two parts divides into two subsections, [in my view](#), as a result of which it has a fourfold structure. As for the relationship with Numbers, in the storyline of the Torah, the march of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land had come to a stand-still on the east bank of the Jordan (at the end of Numbers!) in order to allow Moses to address the people before they cross the Jordan. And it is precisely at that locality that the book of Joshua picks up the storyline and continues the story of Israel, including the farewell address of Moses in the book of Deuteronomy. Because of the interconnection between Numbers and Joshua, it is not surprising to find that the author/redactor of Joshua chose a bipartite instead of a tripartite or even a sevenfold structure:

1-12 The mobilization and the conquest, sealed by **5115** (165x**31**) words:

13,1-24,31 The distribution of land and Joshua’s final measures, sealed by **4896** (288x**17**) words.

Koorevaar has seriously considered a fivefold structure, taking 20-21 as a distinct main part:

1. 1,1-5,12; 2. 5,13-12,24; 3. 13-19; 4. 20-21; 5. 22-24

but ultimately opted for a fourfold structure, linking 20-21 to Chapters 13-19 in order to form Part III: 13-21. According to him, the division of the book into four parts is determined by *divine initiatives* in the crucial events and *evident conclusions* at the end of the four the main parts, namely 5,1-12 for Part I, 11,16-12,24 for Part II, 21,43-45 for Part III, and 24,29-33 for Part IV.

Moreover, Koorevaar’s fourfold structure is undergirded by five *crucial key-words*:⁷

I: 1,1-5,12 The Mobilization and the Invasion of the Promised Land: עבר, ‘to cross’⁸

II: 5,13-12,24 The Conquest and Occupation of the Promised Land: לקח, ‘to take’ and לכד, ‘to capture’⁹

III: 13-21 The Distribution of the Conquered Land: חלק, ‘to apportion’¹⁰

IV: 22-24 Joshua’s Preparations for the Service of YHWH in Canaan: עבד, ‘to serve’.

With due regard for the Masoretic layout markers and the contents Koorevaar found 28 subsections:¹¹

I: 1. 1,1-9 2. 1,10-18 3. 2,1-24 4. 3,1-4,24 5. 5,1-12;

II: 6. 5,13-6,5 7. 6,6-27 8. 7,1-8,29 9. 8,30-35 10. 9,1-27 11. 10,1-43 12. 11,1-15 13. 11,16-12,24;

III: 14. 13,1-7 15. 13,8-33 16. 14,1-5 17. 14,6-15 18. 15,1-17,18 19. 18,1-10 20. 18,11-19,48

21. 19,49-51 22. 20,1-6 23. 20,7-21,42 24. 21,43-45;

IV: 25. 22,1-34 26. 23,1-16 27. 24,1-28 28. 24,29-33.

When it comes to the division of a text on the basis of content, it is only natural that individual scholars come to different conclusions. Contrary to Koorevaar, and guided by numerical

⁶ For the use of the cliffhanger, see Observation 16 on p. 25 in my analysis of [Numbers](#).

⁷ See Koorevaar, pp. 113-120.

⁸ The verb עבר, ‘to cross’, occurs **26x** in Part I: 1,2.11a.11b.14; 2,23; 3,1.2.4.6.11.14.16.17a.17b; 4,3.5.7.8.10.11.12.13.22.23a.23b; 5,1, which refers numerically to YHWH’s presence at the crossing of the Jordan. Its counterpart by alliteration, the verb עבד, ‘to serve’ (YHWH or his service as object) occurs **12x** in 22-24, namely: 22,5.27; 24,14(2x).15(2x).18.19.21.22.24.31, which may be interpreted as stressing numerically that serving YHWH is the duty of all **12** tribes! In Chapter 24 the phrase ‘serving YHWH’ occurs **10x**.

⁹ The verb לקח, ‘take’, occurs only **3x** in Part II: 6,18; 7,11.19, but לכד, ‘to capture militarily’, no less than **13x**: 6,20; 8,19.21; 10,1.28.32.35.37.39.42; 11,10.12.17. The number **13** is the numerical value of אחד, ‘One’.

¹⁰ The root חלק, ‘apportion’, occurs **17x** in Part III: 13,7; 14,4.5; 15,13; 17,2; 18,2.5a.5b.6.7.9.10a.10b; 19,9.25.51; 21,31, by which the number **17** stresses the presence of YHWH in the distribution of the land.

¹¹ For details, see Koorevaar, p. 262.

considerations, I propose a bipartite structure subdivided into four parts with altogether **11** paragraphs, a division that will be explained in the following overview and in the tables below.

The delimitation of **§2** as 4,15-5,12 and **§3** as 5,13-6,25 is fundamentally determined by multiples of the number **17** because of the fact that **§2** is rounded off as a distinct unit and sealed by its **357** (21x17) words, and **§3** in its turn, by its **510** (30x17) words. As a result, **§1** can only be delimited as 1,1-4,14, and **§4** as 6,26-7,26, which is confirmed by the fact that Chapter 7 is sealed by its **26** verses.

§5, 8,1-35, appears to be a close-knit, coherent literary entity, dealing with the final conquest of Ai and the ensuing ceremonies at Mount Ebal for the founding of Israel as a nation in Canaan.

§6, 9-12, deals with the conquest of the rest of the land Canaan and is concluded by the list of **31** Canaanite kings slain by Joshua (Chapter 12), which is determined and rounded off by a number of words that are a multiple of **31** signifying the **31** kings and their cities. See Observation 6 below.

§7, 13-19, deals with the allotment of land to **11** tribes, excluding the Levites, and is concluded and rounded off by the statement “*Thus they completed the distribution of the land*” in 19,51.

Additionally, Chapter 19 is finalized and sealed by its **51** (3x17) verses.

§8, 20-21, deals with the setting aside of the cities of refuge and the cities for the Levites and is concluded and rounded off by the statement “*Not a word of YHWH’s promises to the house of Israel went unfulfilled; they all came true.*” (21,45)

§9, 22,1-34, deals with the return of the Transjordanian tribes and the threat of civil war. I regard 22 as a separate paragraph belonging to Part III, contrary to Koorevaar who links it to 23-24. Numerically speaking, the result is astonishing: **Part III: §§7-9, 13-22**, constitutes a coherent literary unit, rounded off and sealed by a number of words that are a multiple of **17**, namely **4036** (239x17).

§§10-11 23-24,31 are finalized and sealed by their **833** (49x17) words: **49**, the square of **7**, the number of fullness, multiplied by the divine name number **17**, which is a splendid conclusion to the original version of the book before the Appendix was added.

Part I: 1,1-5,12		The Mobilization and the Invasion of the Promised Land: עָבַר, ‘to cross’ occurs 26x	
§1 (1,1-4,14)	The Crossing of the Jordan: Joshua Erects Twelve Stones	P	1271 words; 4946 letters
§2 (4,15-5,12)	The Sojourn at Gilgal: Circumcision and Pesach	S	357 (21x17) words; 1390 letters
Part II: 5,13-12,24		The Conquest and Occupation of the Promised Land: לָכַד, ‘to capture’ occurs 13x	
§3 (5,13-6,25)	Jericho is Conquered and Destroyed under the Ban	P	510 (30x17) words; 2042 letters
§4 (6,26-7,26)	The Failed Attack on Ai and the Punishment of Achan’s Sin	P	524 words; 2043 letters
§5 (8,1-35)	The Conquest of Ai and the Ceremonies at Mount Ebal	P	616 words; 2370 letters
§6 (9-12)	The Conquest of the Rest of the Land of Canaan	P	1837 words; 7216 letters
Part III: 13-22		The Distribution of the Conquered Land: חָלַק, ‘apportion’, occurs 17x	
§7 (13-19)	Land Apportioned to Eleven Tribes	P	10627 letters; 2620 words
§8 (20-21)	Cities of Refuge and Cities for the Levites	P	2935 letters; 755 words
§9 (22)	The Return of the Transjordanian Tribes	P	2695 letters; 688 words
Part IV: 23-24		Joshua’s Farewell Address, the Covenant, his Death and Burial: עָבַד, ‘to serve’, occurs 10x	
§10 (23)	Joshua’s Farewell Address	P	1239 letters; 299 words
§11 (24,1-31)	Joshua’s Shechem Covenant, his Death and Burial		2149 letters; 534 words
Appendix: 24,32-33		The Burial of Joseph’s Bones (26 words), Eleazar’s Death (14 words; 52 [2x26] letters).	

For an explanation of the **4063** (239x17) words of Part III: §§7-9 (13-22), see Observation 9 below.

V. 33 in the Appendix, dealing with the death and burial of Eleazar, is highlighted by its **52** letters (2x26).

For the details about the occurrences of the five **key-words**, see note 8 on page 4.

The **10** occurrences of the verb עָבַד, ‘to serve’, have YHWH as object. The fact that Joshua is explicitly, and only here (24,29) called יְהוָה עֶבֶד, ‘the servant of YHWH’, gives extra substance to the use of עָבַד as a key-word in Chapter 24 in connection with the Shechem Covenant. The use of **10** should be regarded as intentional design in order to refer symbolically to the Ten Commandments as the prerequisite for the service of YHWH.

Part I: 1,1-5,12 The Mobilization and the Invasion of the Promised Land

§1 1,1-4,14 The Crossing of the Jordan: Joshua Erects Twelve Stones

Vss	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1	Josh 1,1	15	53	1-2	15	DS 1	1,1-9 YHWH summons Joshua to advance
2	Josh 1,2	21+	69		36	144	He orders him to get ready to cross the
3	Josh 1,3	13/34(2x17)	44		49		Jordan to the promised land in order to
4	Josh 1,4	18	73		67		fulfil his promise to Moses: 34 words.
5	Josh 1,5	17	59		84		He promises to be with Joshua: 17 words.
6	Josh 1,6	15	52		99		
7	Josh 1,7	22	80		121		YHWH speaks 144 (12x12) words.
8	Josh 1,8	23	83		144		
9	Josh 1,9	15	52	3	159/159	P	
10	Josh 1,10	6	22		165	Jo 1	1,10-18 Joshua gives orders for the crossing
11	Josh 1,11	29	108	4	194/35	S	Joshua: 6+29=35
12	Josh 1,12	8	38		202		Joshua speaks 100 words.
13	Josh 1,13	19	68	5-6	221	Jo 2	Joshua: 8+71=79
14	Josh 1,14	21+	89		242		Special emphasis on his address to
15	Josh 1,15	31/52(2x26)	118	7-9	273		the Transjordanian tribes: 52(2x26).
16	Josh 1,16	4+9/13 9+	48		286		People: 4+43=47
17	Josh 1,17	17 17/26	56	10	303		The solemn promise of the people
18	Josh 1,18	17	55		320/126	P	expressing their loyalty: 26+17.
19	Josh 2,1	11+6+9/26	100		346	Jo 3	2,1-24 Spies sent to explore Jericho: 26
20	Josh 2,2	4+10=14	56		360		Joshua: 11+6=17
21	Josh 2,3	6+13=19+	71		379		Rapport: 4+10=14 King of Jericho: 6+13=19
22	Josh 2,4	7+8=15/34	59		394		Rahab: 7+24=31
23	Josh 2,5	16	69		410		2,3-4 is emphasized by 34 words.
24	Josh 2,6	10	40		420		
25	Josh 2,7	14	67		434		
26	Josh 2,8	8+	31		442		Rahab: 11+99=110
27	Josh 2,9	3+17=20+	77	11	462		
28	Josh 2,10	26+	105	12	488		2,8-24 is in its entirety highlighted
29	Josh 2,11	19+	76	13	507		by 289 (17x17) words.
30	Josh 2,12	20+	67	14	527		
31	Josh 2,13	17+	61		544		
32	Josh 2,14	3+19=22+	83	15	566		Spies: 3+19=22
33	Josh 2,15	11+	47		577		
34	Josh 2,16	2+16=18+	73		595		Rahab: 13+16=29
35	Josh 2,17	3+6=9+	44		604		
36	Josh 2,18	27+	100		631		Spies: 3+65=68 (4x17)
37	Josh 2,19	22+	80		653		
38	Josh 2,20	10+	43		663		
39	Josh 2,21	1+3+6=10/11+	48		674		Rahab: 1+3=4
40	Josh 2,22	16+	66		690		
41	Josh 2,23	17+	68		707		Spies: 20+13=33
42	Josh 2,24	3+16/289(17x17)	58	16	723/403	S	
43	Josh 3,1	16+	66		739		3,1-4 The officers instruct the people
44	Josh 3,2	8+	37		747		Officers: 12+40=52 (2x26).
45	Josh 3,3	4+15+19+	87	17	766		The whole paragraph is emphasized by

46	Josh 3,4	25/68(4x17)	94		791/68	S	the use of 68 (4x17) words.
47	Josh 3,5	4+7=11	46	18	802	Jo 4	3,5-6 Joshua orders Israel to get ready
48	Josh 3,6	5+7+7=19	76		821/30	Jo 5 S	Joshua: 4+7=11 Joshua: 5+7=12
49	Josh 3,7	4+16=20	73	19	841	DS 2	3,7-4,1a The people pass over on dry ground
50	Josh 3,8	15	60		856/35	31	
51	Josh 3,9	5+7=12	47	20	868	Jo 6	Joshua: 5+7=12
52	Josh 3,10	2+21=23	99		891	Jo 7	Joshua: 2+65=45
53	Josh 3,11	9	36		900		
54	Josh 3,12	13	45		913		
55	Josh 3,13	22	92	21	935		
56	Josh 3,14	13	57		948		
57	Josh 3,15	20	82		968		
58	Josh 3,16	26	101		994		They cross over opposite Jericho: 26 words.
59	Josh 3,17	22	89	22	1016		
60	Josh 4,1a	8	29		1024/168	P	
60	Josh 4,1b	5	20	23	1029	DS 3	4,1b-14 The twelve stones brought to Gilgal
61	Josh 4,2	12	39		1041	37	
62	Josh 4,3	25	106		1066/42	S	This S directs attention to what follows.
63	Josh 4,4	15+	55		1081	Jo 8	4,4-13 is highlighted by its 187 (11x17) words.
64	Josh 4,5	3+19=22+	86	24	1103		Joshua: 5+56=61
65	Josh 4,6	14+	55		1117		The number of fulfilment, 11, has consciously
66	Josh 4,7	23+	99	25	1140		been used to symbolize numerically the
67	Josh 4,8	28+	113	26	1168		fulfilment of YHWH's commands. See v. 10!
68	Josh 4,9	19+	77		1187		
69	Josh 4,10	27+	100	27	1214		The Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of
70	Josh 4,11	12+	47	28	1226		Manasseh cross over at the head of the people
71	Josh 4,12	16+	64		1242		to the lowlands of Jericho as a fighting force
72	Josh 4,13	11/187(11x17)	49	29	1253/187	S	to do battle. The S focuses on what follows.
73	Josh 4,14	18	64	30	1271/205	P	4,14 harks back to YHWH's promise to Joshua
73 vs	§1 1-4,14	1271	4946	30x	1271		in 1,6 and 2,7.

Observation 1 In §1 42 of the 73 verses (58%) and 776 of the 1271 words (61%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighting in Columns 3 and 8 is self-explanatory.

The concluding verse, 4,14, forms an inclusion with 1,5-6. It also functions as a cliffhanger: Joshua has been exalted by YHWH in the eyes of all Israel, which qualifies him as a military leader: the conquest can begin.

The number of words in §1, 1271, is a multiple of 31 (41x31), which should not be waved aside as a matter of coincidence, because it refers numerically to the 31 Canaanite kings mentioned in Chapter 12 at the end of Part I (notably in 12,24: "thirty-one kings in all").

For more occurrences of multiples of 31 alluding to the 31 kings, see p. 3 above and Observation 6 below.

§2 4,15-5,12 The Sojourn at Gilgal: Circumcision and Pesach

Vss	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
74	Josh 4,15	5	20	31	1276	DS 4	4,15-24 YHWH: Get out of the Jordan!
75	Josh 4,16	9	36		1285	9	
76	Josh 4,17	5+3=8	31		1293	Jo 9	Joshua: 5+3=8
77	Josh 4,18	25	108	32	1318		
78	Josh 4,19	12	52		1330		
79	Josh 4,20	12	49		1342	Jo 10	Joshua: 17+59=76
80	Josh 4,21	5+10=15	59		1357		
81	Josh 4,22	10	41		1367		
82	Josh 4,23	21	84	33-34	1388		
83	Josh 4,24	18	61	35-36	1406	S	This S directs attention to 5,1.
84	Josh 5,1	37	131	37	1443/172	S	5,1 The Canaanite kings are awestruck
85	Josh 5,2	6+10=16	55	38	1459	DS 5	5,2-8 The second circumcision of Israel
86	Josh 5,3	12	46		1471	10	
87	Josh 5,4	18	73		1489		
88	Josh 5,5	15	57		1504		
89	Josh 5,6	38	144	39-41	1542		
90	Josh 5,7	15+	51		1557		5,7-8 The reason for the circumcision is
91	Josh 5,8	11/26	43		1568/125	P	highlighted by the use of 26 words.
92	Josh 5,9	4+6+8=18	71	42	1586	DS 6	5,9-12 YHWH explains the name Gilgal
93	Josh 5,10	6+8=14	60		1600	6	He has 'rolled away' the reproach of
94	Josh 5,11	10	44		1610		the Egyptians.
95	Josh 5,12	18	74		1628/60	S	
22 vss	§2 4,15-5,12	357(21x17)	1390	12x	357(21x17)		

Observation 2 §2 in its entirety is governed by the number 17 through its 357 (21x17) words.

Vs. 7-8 are additionally highlighted by the number 26. Most significantly, Part I: §§1-2 (1,1-5,12) have altogether 1628 words (148x11) and 6336 letters (576x11), §3-5 (5,13-8,35) has 1650 (150x11), §6 (9,1-12,24) has 1837 (167x11), and Part II: 5,13-12,24, have altogether 3487 (317x11)! Note also that there are 11 paragraphs! The use of 11, the number of fulfilment, cannot possibly be a matter of chance. It signifies numerically the fulfilment of YHWH's promise to give Israel a land. At the same time, it preludes on the conquest and occupation: Part II. See especially Observations 4 and 5 below.

Part II: 5,13-12,24 The Conquest and Occupation of the Promised Land

§3 5,13-6,25 Jericho is Conquered and Destroyed under the Ban

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
96	Josh 5,13	19+4=23	97		1651		5,13- Joshua meets YHWH's Swordsman
97	Josh 5,14	22	76	43	1673	Jo 11	Joshua: 19+4=23 Swordsman: 1+8=9 [DS 7]
98	Josh 5,15	6+12+3=21	71	44	1694	Jo 12	Joshua: 8+5=13 Swordsman: 6+12=18 [DS 8]
99	Josh 6,1	10	41		1704/76	S	
100	Josh 6,2	4+9=13	50	45	1717	DS 9	6,2-11 The ark makes the first circuit of Jericho
101	Josh 6,3	15	52		1732	63	
102	Josh 6,4	18	88		1750		
103	Josh 6,5	21	85		1771		
104	Josh 6,6	8+13=21	88	46	1792	Jo 13	Joshua: 8+13=21
105	Josh 6,7	3+9=12	47	47	1804	Jo 14	Joshua: 3+9=12
106	Josh 6,8	21+	97	48-49	1825		Led by seven priests with trumpets, followed by
107	Josh 6,9	13/34(2x17)	64		1838		the Ark, the march around the city begins: 34.
108	Josh 6,10	5+16=21	81		1859	Jo 15	Joshua: 5+16=21
109	Josh 6,11	12	48	50	1871/167	P	
110	Josh 6,12	8	35	51	1879		6,12-25 Jericho captured and destroyed
111	Josh 6,13	24	117	52-53	1903		
112	Josh 6,14	13	47		1916		
113	Josh 6,15	21	84		1937		
114	Josh 6,16	10+7=17	70	54	1954		Joshua proclaims the victory: 17.
115	Josh 6,17	23	83	55	1977	Jo 16	Joshua: 10+59=69 He commands Israel to shout: 7.
116	Josh 6,18	17	66		1994		He also tells the people that the city is under a ban
117	Josh 6,19	12	46	56-57	2006		and warns against coveting: 23+17+12=52.
118	Josh 6,20	25	104		2031		
119	Josh 6,21	17	58		2048		The city is completely destroyed: 17.
120	Josh 6,22	7+15=22	86		2070	Jo 17	Joshua: 7+15=22
121	Josh 6,23	24+	99		2094		
122	Josh 6,24	16+	61	58	2110		
123	Josh 6,25	28/68(4x17)	101		2138/267	P	Rahab and her family are spared and brought
28vs	§3 5,13-6,25	510 (30x17)	2042	16x	510 (30x17)		into safety by the two spies: 68 words.

Observation 3 §3 in its entirety is governed by the number 17 through its 510 (30x17) words.

Additionally, 7 of the 28 verses (25%) and 136 of the 510 words (27%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Most astonishingly, §§2-3 taken together, the entire story of the arrival of the Israelites on the west bank and their stay at Gilgal until the capture and destruction of Jericho (4,15-6,25) has altogether 867 (51x17) words (357+510) and 3432 (132x26) letters (1390+2042)!

§4 6,26-7,26 The Failed Attack on Ai and the Punishment of Achan's Sin

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
124	Josh 6,26	5+17=22+	92	59	2160	Jo 18	6,26-7,9 The failed attack on the city of Ai
125	Josh 6,27	8+	30	60	2168	17	Joshua: 5+17=22 The curse he laid upon Jericho
126	Josh 7,1	22/52(3x26)	79	61	2190		and Achan's theft of the forbidden things: 52.
127	Josh 7,2	15+4+5=24+	95		2214	Jo 19	Joshua: 15+4=19 He sends spies to explore Ai: 52.
128	Josh 7,3	5+23=28/52	93		2242		The spies: 5+23=28
129	Josh 7,4	11	42		2253		
130	Josh 7,5	19	78		2272		
131	Josh 7,6	19	75	62	2291	Jo 20	Joshua: 21+48=69
132	Josh 7,7	2+21=23+	94	63	2314		Part of Joshua's prayer is highlighted: 34.
133	Josh 7,8	11/34(2x17)	38		2325		
134	Josh 7,9	16	68		2341/203	S	
135	Josh 7,10	4+8=12	37	64	2353	DS 10	7,10-26 Achan's sin caused Israel's defeat.
136	Josh 7,11	20	73		2373	117	
137	Josh 7,12	23	91		2396		
138	Josh 7,13	25	95	65	2421		
139	Josh 7,14	22	107	66-68	2443		
140	Josh 7,15	19	64	69	2462		
141	Josh 7,16	10	45		2472		
142	Josh 7,17	15	66		2487		
143	Josh 7,18	14	51		2501		
144	Josh 7,19	4+18=22	74	70	2523	Jo 21	Joshua: 4+18=22
145	Josh 7,20	5+9=14	61	71	2537		Achan: 5+33=38
146	Josh 7,21	24	108		2561		
147	Josh 7,22	10	50		2571		
148	Josh 7,23	13	53	72	2584		
149	Josh 7,24	36+	124		2620		Joshua takes measures to have Achan stoned.
150	Josh 7,25	2+6+9=19+	80	73	2639	Jo 22	Joshua: 2+6=8 In the vale of Achor, the whole
151	Josh 7,26	23/78(3x26)	80	74	2662/321	P	community stone Achan and everything he has: 78.
28 vs	§ 4	524	2043	16x	524		7,1-26 has 494 (19x26) words.

Observation 4 In §4 10 of the 28 verses (36%) and 216 of the 524 words (41%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighting in Columns 3 and 8 is self-explanatory. Note that 7,1-26 has 494 (19x26) words.

In terms of content, §3 (5,13-6,25) and §4 (6,26-7,26) are inextricably interconnected; they have altogether 1034 (94x11) words and deal with the story of the destruction of Jericho under the ban and its aftermath, the failed attack on Ai and the sin of Achan. This is additionally expressed by the fact that both paragraphs have 28 verses and 16 occurrences of the name YHWH. The 32 (16+16) instances of the divine name may have been consciously designed in order to refer to YHWH's glory ($kbwd = 10+2+6+4=32$).

§5 (8,1-35) has altogether 616 words, which is also a multiple of 11 (56x11). See Observation 5.

§5 8,1-35 The Conquest of Ai and the Ceremonies at Mount Ebal

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
152	Josh 8,1	4+25=29	94	75	2691	DS 11	8,1-17 Preparations for the assault on Ai
153	Josh 8,2	17	71		2708	42	Joshua must do to Ai as he did to Jericho: 17.
154	Josh 8,3	16	68		2724	Jo 23	Joshua: 19+69=88
155	Josh 8,4	3+14=17	67		2741		
156	Josh 8,5	16	64		2757		
157	Josh 8,6	15	67		2772		
158	Josh 8,7	10	47	76	2782		
159	Josh 8,8	14	54	77	2796		
160	Josh 8,9	19	74		2815		
161	Josh 8,10	13	51		2828		
162	Josh 8,11	17	66		2845		The Israelite army takes its positions: 17.
163	Josh 8,12	14	50		2859		
164	Josh 8,13	18	70		2877		
165	Josh 8,14	26	105		2903		Ai's king and his men go out to battle: 26.
166	Josh 8,15	8	38		2911		
167	Josh 8,16	13	55		2924		
168	Josh 8,17	18	69		2942/280	P	
169	Josh 8,18	4+9+7+(=20)	75	78	2962	DS 12	8,18-29 Ai conquered and all inhabitants slain
170	Josh 8,19	15+	69		2977	9	
171	Josh 8,20	23+	90		3000		In order to underline the importance of
172	Josh 8,21	18+	63		3018		this decisive battle, the author/redactor
173	Josh 8,22	20+	78		3038		has composed the <i>narrative</i> following YHWH's
174	Josh 8,23	9+	31		3047		speech (8,18b-29) of 204 words: 12x17.
175	Josh 8,24	27+	95		3074		This can be interpreted as symbolizing the
176	Josh 8,25	14+	49		3088		bond between the 12 tribes of Israel and
177	Josh 8,26	14+	48		3102		YHWH who is present through his Name
178	Josh 8,27	14+	52	79	3116		represented by its numerical value of 17.
179	Josh 8,28	11+	40		3127		
180	Josh 8,29	32/204(12x17)	113		3159/217	P	
181	Josh 8,30	9+	36	80	3168		8,30-35 The ceremonies at Mount Ebal
182	Josh 8,31	26+	104	81-82	3194		Seeing the crucial importance of the acts
183	Josh 8,32	13+	46		3207		performed here, the entire paragraph is
184	Josh 8,33	38+	151	83-84	3245		governed by the number 17 (119=7x17).
185	Josh 8,34	13+	51		3258		These acts constitute nothing less than the
186	Josh 8,35	20/119(7x17)	69		3278/119	P	founding of the nation Israel in Canaan. The
35 vs	§ 5	616 (56x11)	2370	10x	616		fact that the term כל-ישראל occurs 17x
186 vs	Josh 1-8	3278 (298x11)	12791		3278		signifies this event as authorized by YHWH.

Observation 5 22 of the 35 verses (63%) and 400 of the 616 words (65%) are governed by 17 and 26. The highlighting in Columns 3 and 8 is self-explanatory. For the term כל-ישראל, 'All Israel', see p. 2 above.

§5 (8,1-35) has altogether 616 words, which is a multiple of 11 (56x11). See Observation 4.

Joshua 1-8, which deals with the mobilization for the conquest and the capture of Jericho and Ai as the first military feat, has altogether 3278 words, which is a multiple of 11, the number of fulfilment (298x11), signifying the completion of the first part of the conquest. The second part, 9-12, is likewise made up of a number of words that is a multiple of 11, 1837 (167x11). See also Observation 6. For abundant evidence of the use of 11 in contexts dealing with fulfilment, see pp. 70-73 in my book [Numerical Secrets of the Bible](#).

§6 9-12 The Victory over Thirty-one Canaanite Kings

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	יְהוָה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
187	Josh 9,1	22+	95+		3300		9,1-2 Canaanite kings ready for battle
188	Josh 9,2	9=31	36/73		3309/31	P	For the number 31 see Observation 6
189	Josh 9,3	9	37		3318		9,3-27 The Gibeonites act with cunning
190	Josh 9,4	15	75		3333		
191	Josh 9,5	13	60		3346		
192	Josh 9,6	11+7=18	73		3364		Gibeonites: 11+7=18
193	Josh 9,7	5+8=13	51		3377		Israelites: 5+8=13
194	Josh 9,8	3+2+6=12	51		3389	Jo 24	Gibeonites: 3+2=5 Joshua: 3+4=7
195	Josh 9,9	2+16+=18	70	85	3407		
196	Josh 9,10	18+	72		3425		Gibeonites: 2+85=87
197	Josh 9,11	21+	97		3446		9,9-13 The story they tell Joshua is
198	Josh 9,12	15+	62		3461		especially highlighted by the fact that it is
199	Josh 9,13	15/85(5x17)	68		3476		made up of 85 (5x17) words.
200	Josh 9,14	8	31	86	3484		
201	Josh 9,15	12	52		3496		
202	Josh 9,16	17	66		3513		The Israelites hear that they have lied: 17.
203	Josh 9,17	14	69		3527		
204	Josh 9,18	17	68	87	3544		The Israelites do not kill them: 17,
205	Josh 9,19	6+11=17	68	88	3561		for they are bound by their oath: 17.
206	Josh 9,20	14	54		3575		Elders: 6+25=31
207	Josh 9,21	3+1+11=15	68		3590		Elders: 3+1=4
208	Josh 9,22	6+11=17	75		3607	Jo 25	Joshua reproaches them: 17.
209	Josh 9,23	13	51		3620		Joshua: 6+24=30
210	Josh 9,24	4+31=35	133	89	3655		
211	Josh 9,25	9	38		3664		Gibeonites: 4+40=44
212	Josh 9,26	10	36		3674		
213	Josh 9,27	18	71	90	3692/383	P	
214	Josh 10,1	28	114		3720		10,1-7 Five kings ready to attack Gibeon
215	Josh 10,2	17	66		3737		King Adoni-zedek is in great fear: 17.
216	Josh 10,3	22+	83		3759		Adoni-zedek: 22+13=35
217	Josh 10,4	13+	49		3772		Being the king of Jerusalem, he asks four
218	Josh 10,5	23+	97		3795		other kings to assist him to attack Gibeon.
219	Josh 10,6	9+18=27/85	112		3822		Gibeonites: 9+18=27 Vs 3-6 85 (5x17).
220	Josh 10,7	12	45		3834/142	P	Gibeon and his men go to war.
221	Josh 10,8	4+11=15	53	91	3849	DS 13	10,8-14 The miraculous victory at Gibeon
222	Josh 10,9	9	35		3858	11	Until this point YHWH has spoken 11x.
223	Josh 10,10	18	73	92	3876		The use of the number of fulfilment, 11,
224	Josh 10,11	28	113	93	3904/70	S	is obviously deliberate.
225	Josh 10,12	15+6=21	85	94-95	3925	Jo 26	Joshua: 15+6=21 NB, the 26 th speech is
226	Josh 10,13	8+15=23	83		3948		Joshua's command to the sun and moon!
227	Josh 10,14	14	56	96-97	3962/58	P	8,1-10,14 has 1300 words: 50x26!
228	Josh 10,15	8	33		3970		10,15-27 The fate of the five kings
229	Josh 10,16	7	35		3977		
230	Josh 10,17	9	45		3986	Jo 27	Joshua: 11+28=39
231	Josh 10,18	2+10=12	53		3998		
232	Josh 10,19	18	74	98	4016		
233	Josh 10,20	18+	75		4034		After the battle all Israelites return
234	Josh 10,21	16/34(2x17)	57		4050		to Joshua safely without a scratch: 34.

235	Josh 10,22	2+12=14	56		4064	Jo 28	Joshua: 2+12=14
236	Josh 10,23	25	90		4089		
237	Josh 10,24	20+8+6=34+	145		4123	Jo 29	Joshua: 20+8=28 Joshua orders his men
238	Josh 10,25	3+16=19+	76	99	4142	Jo 30	Joshua: 3+16=19 to humiliate the five
239	Josh 10,26	15/68(4x17)	59		4157		kings, then he kills them personally: 68.
240	Josh 10,27	25	96		4182/220	P	Until this point Joshua has spoken 26x.
241	Josh 10,28	28	101		4210		10,28-30 The city of Libnah captured
242	Josh 10,29	10	41		4220		
243	Josh 10,30	26	91	100	4246/64	S	YHWH delivers it to the Israelites: 26.
244	Josh 10,31	11	46		4257		10,31-32 Lachish captured
245	Josh 10,32	21	74	101	4278/32	P	
246	Josh 10,33	17	57		4295		10,33-35 Gezer and Eglon captured: 17.
247	Josh 10,34	11	50		4306		
248	Josh 10,35	18	67		4324/46	P	
249	Josh 10,36	9	43		4333		10,36-37 Hebron captured
250	Josh 10,37	28	97		4361/37	S	
251	Josh 10,38	8	33		4369		10,38-43 Debir captured to round it off
252	Josh 10,39	29	111		4398		
253	Josh 10,40	24	95	102	4422		
254	Josh 10,41	12	42		4434		
255	Josh 10,42	16	61	103	4450		
256	Josh 10,43	8	33		4458/97	P	
257	Josh 11,1	16	58		4474		11,1-13 More kings join forces at Merom
258	Josh 11,2	12	52		4486		
259	Josh 11,3	13	64		4499		
260	Josh 11,4	17	54		4516		A very great number of troops: 17.
261	Josh 11,5	13	52		4529/71	P	
262	Josh 11,6	4+21=25	96	104	4554	DS 14	11,6-9 Battle by the Waters of Merom
263	Josh 11,7	13	48		4567	21	
264	Josh 11,8	22	89	105	4589		
265	Josh 11,9	14	53	106	4603/74	S	
266	Josh 11,10	19+	71		4622		11,10-20 Joshua continues his campaign
267	Josh 11,11	17+	52		4639		
268	Josh 11,12	20+	73	107	4659		This impressive overview of all the land
269	Josh 11,13	15+	54		4674		conquered by Joshua is highlighted by the
270	Josh 11,14	23+	80		4697		fact that it consists of 208 (8x26) words.
271	Josh 11,15	23+	73	108-109	4720		
272	Josh 11,16	22+	77		4742		
273	Josh 11,17	19+	71		4761		
274	Josh 11,18	9+	35		4770		
275	Josh 11,19	16+	60		4786		
276	Josh 11,20	25/208(8x26)	94	110-111	4811/208	S	
277	Josh 11,21	25	91		4836		11,21-23, The Anakim are wiped out
278	Josh 11,22	11	44		4847		
279	Josh 11,23	20	85	112	4867/56	P	
280	Josh 12,1	22	86		4889		12,1-6 The kings whom Joshua defeated
281	Josh 12,2	22	87		4911		
282	Josh 12,3	18	72		4929		
283	Josh 12,4	9	44		4938		
284	Josh 12,5	16	71		4954		

285	Josh 12,6	16	67	113-114	4970	S	
286	Josh 12,7	26	111		4996		12,7-24 31 Kings killed on the West Bank
287	Josh 12,8	12+	65		5008		
288	Josh 12,9	10+	31		5018		Special emphasis is laid on the conquest
289	Josh 12,10	6+	23		5024		of the land of 31 kings west of the Jordan:
290	Josh 12,11	6+	21		5030		26 + 119 (7x17) words.
291	Josh 12,12	6+	20		5036		Note that 119 is the product of 7, the
292	Josh 12,13	6+	18		5042		number of fullness, and 17, the number
293	Josh 12,14	6+	19		5048		representing the Name of YHWH.
294	Josh 12,15	6+	20		5054		
295	Josh 12,16	7+	21		5061		
296	Josh 12,17	6+	19		5067		
297	Josh 12,18	6+	20		5073		
298	Josh 12,19	6+	20		5079		
299	Josh 12,20	7+	26		5086		
300	Josh 12,21	6+	20		5092		
301	Josh 12,22	7+	25		5099		A small, significant detail: the last verse
302	Josh 12,23	9+	31		5108		is made up of 7 words with 26 letters.
303	Josh 12,24	7/119(7x17)	26		5115/248	P	12,1-24 248 (8x31) words.
117	§6 9-12	1837(167x11)	7216	30x	1837		1837(167x11) words; 7216(656x11) lett.
303	Part I-II	5115(465x11)	20007	114x	5115		14 DSS altogether 520 (20x26) words.

Observation 6 51 of the 117 verses (44%) and 770 of the 1838 words (42%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Until this point, the completion of the conquest, YHWH has spoken 14 (2x7) times (including the two speeches by his Swordsman in 5,14-15) using 520 (20x26) words. In this way, Part I-II (1,1-12,24), the first half of the book, is finalized and sealed by the number of fullness and the divine name number 26.

The completion of the conquest, as the *fulfilment* of YHWH's promise of land for Israel, is numerically expressed by the use – no less than 3 times – of the number of *fulfilment*, 11, which also refers numerically to the 11 tribes (excluding the Levites) to which land is apportioned:

§6 (9-12), is made up of 1837 (167x11) words and 7216 (656x11) letters;

Part I-II (1-12) is made up of altogether 5115 (465x11) words.

See Observations 4 and 5 above for additional use of the number of fulfilment.

But there is more to note: three instances of the use of 31, the number of Canaanite kings slain by Joshua as shown in the list in Joshua 12, and as explicitly stated in 12,24 *‘thirty-one kings in all, one of each town’*:

Joshua 1-11 have altogether 4867 (157x31) words, by which 31 preludes on the 31 kings;

Joshua 9,1-2 (§1), which is significantly delimited by a *Petuchah*, has 31 words;

Joshua 12 is made up of 248 (8x31) words, by which 31 refers to the list of 31 kings;

Joshua 1-12 have altogether 5115 (165x31) words, by which 31 preludes on the 31 kings.

These numerical features are to be considered conclusive evidence that the text of 1-12, the first half of the book, has been finalized and sealed as a distinct literary entity, dealing with the conquest of the land.

Part III: 13-22 The Distribution of the Conquered Land

§7 (13-19) Land Apportioned to Eleven Tribes, Excluding the Levites

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	ידוע	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
304	Josh 13,1	7+9=16	67	115	5131	DS 15	13,1-14 YHWH orders the distribution
305	Josh 13,2	8	37		5139	96	
306	Josh 13,3	21	101		5160		This is the only divine speech in Part VII.
307	Josh 13,4	12	48		5172		The next DS is to be found in 20,1-6,
308	Josh 13,5	14	52		5186		which stands out by the use of
309	Josh 13,6	21	84		5207		<i>wayyedabber</i> instead of <i>wayy'omer</i> .
310	Josh 13,7	11	46		5218		
311	Josh 13,8	18+	70	116	5236		Special emphasis is laid on the
312	Josh 13,9	15+	58		5251		distribution of land by Moses among the
313	Josh 13,10	12+	44		5263		three Transjordanian tribes: 102 (6x17).
314	Josh 13,11	11+	47		5274		
315	Josh 13,12	15+	64		5289		
316	Josh 13,13	16+	65		5305		
317	Josh 13,14	15/102(6x17)	52	117	5320/205	S	
318	Josh 13,15	6	26		5326		13,15-23 Inheritance of the Reubenites
319	Josh 13,16	17	65		5343		The land from Aroer to Madebah: 17 .
320	Josh 13,17	11	44		5354		
321	Josh 13,18	3	15		5357		
322	Josh 13,19	6	27		5363		
323	Josh 13,20	6	29		5369		
324	Josh 13,21	32	116		5401		
325	Josh 13,22	11	42		5412		
326	Josh 13,23	13	60		5425/105	P	
327	Josh 13,24	7	26		5432		13,24-32 Inheritance of the Gadites
328	Josh 13,25	17	59		5449		Half the land of the Ammonites: 17 .
329	Josh 13,26	9	40		5458		
330	Josh 13,27	21	84		5479		
331	Josh 13,28	7	31		5486		
332	Josh 13,29	11	44		5497		
333	Josh 13,30	17	63		5514		The land of king Og of Bashan: 17 .
334	Josh 13,31	16+	71		5530		Also half Gilead: 26 .
335	Josh 13,32	10/26	41		5540/115	S	60 Cities
336	Josh 13,33	14	52	118	5554		13,33-14,5 The inheritances in Canaan
337	Josh 14,1	20	81		5574		Special emphasis on the fact that Moses
338	Josh 14,2	11+	45	119	5585		has given land to the two and a half
339	Josh 14,3	15/26	57		5600		tribes, but not to the tribe of Levi: 26 .
340	Josh 14,4	20	82		5620		
341	Josh 14,5	12	41	120	5632/92	P	
342	Josh 14,6	12+17=29+	109	121	5661		14,6-15 Caleb's claim to Promised Land
343	Josh 14,7	20+	70	122	5681		Caleb: 12+148=160
344	Josh 14,8	13+	47	123	5694		14,6-9 the first part of Caleb's speech,
345	Josh 14,9	23/85(5x17)	82	124	5717		is made up of 85 words, which preludes
346	Josh 14,10	31	111	125-126	5748		on the fact that he was 85 years (14,10).
347	Josh 14,11	15	60		5763		What is specifically highlighted is that
348	Josh 14,12	29	107	127-129	5792		Caleb bases his claim Moses' promise.
349	Josh 14,13	9	38		5801		Compare the 85 words in 15,13-18!
350	Josh 14,14	19	68	130	5820		
351	Josh 14,15	12	54		5832/200	P	

352	Josh 15,1	14	56		5846		15,1-19 Towns for the tribe of Judah
353	Josh 15,2	11	38		5857		
354	Josh 15,3	17	71		5874		
355	Josh 15,4	14	55		5888		
356	Josh 15,5	14	56		5902		
357	Josh 15,6	14	56		5916		
358	Josh 15,7	27	101		5943		
359	Josh 15,8	27	92		5970		
360	Josh 15,9	19+	70		5989		Vs. 9-12 The description of these
361	Josh 15,10	20+	73		6009		boundaries is highlighted by 68 words.
362	Josh 15,11	18+	76		6027		
363	Josh 15,12	11/68(4x17)	46		6038		
364	Josh 15,13	19+ 19+	68	131	6057		Vs. 13-18 Special emphasis on Caleb's
365	Josh 15,14	15+ 15/34	53		6072		reaction to his daughter's wish: 85 .
366	Josh 15,15	10+	34		6082		
367	Josh 15,16	2+12=14+	48		6096		Caleb: 2+12=14
368	Josh 15,17	12+ (=26)	42		6108		
369	Josh 15,18	15/85	58		6123		Caleb: 3+2=5
370	Josh 15,19	1+11+8=20	69		6143/311	P	Daughter: 1+11+8=20
371	Josh 15,20	6	25		6149		15,20-32 Judah's lot in the South
372	Josh 15,21	13	55		6162		29 Cities
373	Josh 15,22	3	18		6165		
374	Josh 15,23	3	14		6168		
375	Josh 15,24	3	13		6171		
376	Josh 15,25	6	27		6177		
377	Josh 15,26	3	13		6180		
378	Josh 15,27	5	20		6185		
379	Josh 15,28	5	23		6190		
380	Josh 15,29	3	13		6193		
381	Josh 15,30	3	17		6196		
382	Josh 15,31	3	17		6199		
383	Josh 15,32	9	43		6208/65	S	
384	Josh 15,33	4	21		6212		15,33-41 Judah's lot in the Lowland
385	Josh 15,34	5	23		6217		30 Cities (14 and 16)
386	Josh 15,35	4	19		6221		
387	Josh 15,36	8	45		6229		
388	Josh 15,37	4	15		6233		
389	Josh 15,38	3	17		6236		
390	Josh 15,39	3	15		6239		
391	Josh 15,40	3	16		6242		
392	Josh 15,41	9	40		6251/43	S	
393	Josh 15,42	3	12		6254		15,42-47 Judah's lot by Ashdod
394	Josh 15,43	3	15		6257		11 Cities (9 + Ekron and Ashdod)
395	Josh 15,44	6	32		6263		
396	Josh 15,45	3	17		6266		
397	Josh 15,46	8	31		6274		
398	Josh 15,47	12	56		6286/35	S	
399	Josh 15,48	4	18		6290		15,48-54 Judah's lot in the Hill Country
400	Josh 15,49	5	18		6295		20 Cities
401	Josh 15,50	3	15		6298		
402	Josh 15,51	7	30		6305		
403	Josh 15,52	3	13		6308		

404	Josh 15,53	4	18		6312		
405	Josh 15,54	9	41		6321/35	S	
406	Josh 15,55	4+	17		6325		15,55-60 More cities for Judah 18 Cities
407	Josh 15,56	3+	18		6328		
408	Josh 15,57	6+	27		6334		
409	Josh 15,58	4+	16		6338		
410	Josh 15,59	7+	32		6345		
411	Josh 15,60	9+	39		6354/33	S	
412	Josh 15,61	5+	22		6359		15,61-63 Still more cities for Judah: 6 Cities
413	Josh 15,62	8+	34		6367		
414	Josh 15,63	18+	78		6385/31	P	<i>The Jebusites were not driven out!</i> 18
415	Josh 16,1	15+	62		6400		16,1-10 The lot of the Ephraimites The lots of Judah and Ephraim in 15,1-16,10 676 (26x26) words. 15,55-16,10 187 (11x17) words. <i>The Canaanites were not driven out!</i> 16
416	Josh 16,2	9+	34		6409		
417	Josh 16,3	15+	55		6424		
418	Josh 16,4	5+	23		6429		
419	Josh 16,5	15+	63		6444		
420	Josh 16,6	14+	63		6458		
421	Josh 16,7	8+	40		6466		
422	Josh 16,8	15+	61		6481		
423	Josh 16,9	11+	51		6492		
424	Josh 16,10	16/187(11x17)	64		6508/123	P	
425	Josh 17,1	22	83		6530		17,1-13 The lot of the Manassites
426	Josh 17,2	24	110		6554		
427	Josh 17,3	24	83		6578		
428	Josh 17,4	11+9+9=29	113	132-133	6607		Daughters of Zelophehad: 11+9=20
429	Josh 17,5	11	46		6618		
430	Josh 17,6	13	54		6631		
431	Josh 17,7	17	62		6648		
432	Josh 17,8	10	40		6658		
433	Josh 17,9	19	80		6677		
434	Josh 17,10	12	61		6689		
435	Josh 17,11	25	118		6714		
436	Josh 17,12	13	54		6727		
437	Josh 17,13	12	47		6739/231	S	Total number of cities for 5 tribes: 168.
438	Josh 17,14	6+17=23 17	78	134	6762		17,14-18 More land for Joseph
439	Josh 17,15	3+18=21	72		6783	Jo 31	Josephites: 6+ 17=23 Joshua: 3+18=21
440	Josh 17,16	3+18=21	87		6804		Josephites: 3+18=21
441	Josh 17,17	8+11=19	66		6823	Jo 32	Joshua: 8+33=19
442	Josh 17,18	22	70		6845/106	P	Joshua speaks 18+33=51(3x17) words.
443	Josh 18,1	14+	56		6859		18,1-10 Land for 7 tribes
444	Josh 18,2	10+	40		6869		
445	Josh 18,3	5+14=19+	72	135	6888	Jo 33	Joshua speaks 85 (5x17) words.
446	Josh 18,4	15+	67		6903		Joshua: 5+85=90
447	Josh 18,5	15+	65		6918		
448	Josh 18,6	16+	65	136	6934		The whole paragraph has 170 words.
449	Josh 18,7	25/85+	97	137-138	6959		
450	Josh 18,8	11+14=25+	105	139	6984	Jo 34	Joshua: 11+14=25
451	Josh 18,9	16+	70		7000		
452	Josh 18,10	15=170(10x17)	63	140	7015/170	P	

453	Josh 18,11	15	61		7030		18,11-28 The lot of Benjamin
454	Josh 18,12	21	83		7051		14 Cities
455	Josh 18,13	22	79		7073		
456	Josh 18,14	28	97		7101		
457	Josh 18,15	13	50		7114		
458	Josh 18,16	25	83		7139		
459	Josh 18,17	17	63		7156		
460	Josh 18,18	8	32		7164		
461	Josh 18,19	22	82		7186		
462	Josh 18,20	12	55		7198		
463	Josh 18,21	11+	52		7209		Vs. 21-28 The list of the 14 Benjaminite cities is made up of 52 (2x26) words.
464	Josh 18,22	5+	21		7214		
465	Josh 18,23	3+	16		7217		
466	Josh 18,24	8+	38		7225		
467	Josh 18,25	3+	16		7228		
468	Josh 18,26	3+	18		7231		
469	Josh 18,27	3+	16		7234		
470	Josh 18,28	16/52(2x26)	73		7250/235	P	13,1-18,28 the name YHWH occurs 26x
471	Josh 19,1	14	64		7264		19,1-9 The lot of Simeon
472	Josh 19,2	7	29		7271		13 Cities
473	Josh 19,3	4	16		7275		
474	Josh 19,4	3	17		7278		
475	Josh 19,5	5	24		7283		
476	Josh 19,6	7	33		7290		
477	Josh 19,7	7	30		7297		
478	Josh 19,8	17	68		7314		
479	Josh 19,9	18	68		7332/82	P	
480	Josh 19,10	11+	50		7343		19,10-16 The lot of Zebulun
481	Josh 19,11	13+	51		7356		12 Cities
482	Josh 19,12	14+	52		7370		The entire paragraph is highlighted by 78 (3x26) words.
483	Josh 19,13	12+	46		7382		
484	Josh 19,14	10+	39		7392		
485	Josh 19,15	10+	47		7402		
486	Josh 19,16	8/78(2x26)	39		7410/78	P	
487	Josh 19,17	7	37		7417		19,17-23 The lot of Issachar
488	Josh 19,18	5	28		7422		16 Cities
489	Josh 19,19	3	17		7425		
490	Josh 19,20	3	16		7428		
491	Josh 19,21	7	26		7435		
492	Josh 19,22	14	64		7449		
493	Josh 19,23	8	37		7457/47	P	18,11-19,23 442(17x26) words.
494	Josh 19,24	7	33		7464		19,24-31 The lot of Asher
495	Josh 19,25	6	26		7470		22 Cities
496	Josh 19,26	8	40		7478		
497	Josh 19,27	18	70		7496		
498	Josh 19,28	7	28		7503		
499	Josh 19,29	15	60		7518		
500	Josh 19,30	7	33		7525		
501	Josh 19,31	9	39		7534/77	P	

502	Josh 19,32	8	37		7542		19,32-39 The lot of Naphtali
503	Josh 19,33	13	61		7555		19 Cities
504	Josh 19,34	18	77		7573		
505	Josh 19,35	7+	27		7580		The list of 19 fortified cities of Naphtali
506	Josh 19,36	3+	15		7583		is highlighted by 34 (2x17) words.
507	Josh 19,37	4+	18		7587		
508	Josh 19,38	12+	48		7599		
509	Josh 19,39	8/34(2x17)	37		7607/73	P	
510	Josh 19,40	7	30		7614		19,40-51 The lot of Dan
511	Josh 19,41	7	31		7621		Number of cities is not mentioned [18]
512	Josh 19,42	3	18		7624		
513	Josh 19,43	3	18		7627		
514	Josh 19,44	3	17		7630		
515	Josh 19,45	5	18		7635		
516	Josh 19,46	7	28		7642		
517	Josh 19,47	27	99		7669		19,24-48 221 (13x17) words.
518	Josh 19,48	9	38		7678		18,11-19,48 663(39x17) words.
519	Josh 19,49	13	56		7691		The Israelites have finished allocating
520	Josh 19,50	19	60	141	7710		land and they give Joshua a holding.
521	Josh 19,51	25	100	142	7735/128	P	The completion of the apportioning
218 vs	§7 13-19	2620	10627	28x	2620		of land to the eleven tribes!

Observation 7 In §7 79 of the 218 verses (36%) and 802 of the 2620 words (38%) are highlighted by the divine name numbers **17** and **26**.

§8 20-21 The Cities of Refuge and the Allocation of Cities for the Levites

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
522	Josh 20,1	5	20	143	7740	DS 16	20,1-9 YHWH's cities of refuge
523	Josh 20,2	15+	52		7755	104	
524	Josh 20,3	13+	48		7768	(4x26)	
525	Josh 20,4	25+	96		7793		YHWH's last speech in the book
526	Josh 20,5	22+	75		7815		is made up of 104 (4x26) words.
527	Josh 20,6	29/104(4x26)	101		7844		
528	Josh 20,7	17	65		7861		Three cities are focused on: 17 .
529	Josh 20,8	21	85		7882		
530	Josh 20,9	25	88		7907/172	P	
531	Josh 21,1	17	67		7924		21,1-41 Levites claim their cities
532	Josh 21,2	6+10=16	69	144	7940	Levi:	The Levite family heads remind
533	Josh 21,3	13	53	145	7953	6+10	Joshua of YHWH's command: 17 .
534	Josh 21,4	20+	89		7973		The lot of the Korahites from Judah
535	Josh 21,5	14/34(2x17)	60		7987	S	and Joseph emphasized: 34 .
536	Josh 21,6	17	75		8004	S	Towns of the Gershonites: 17
537	Josh 21,7	12	53		8016		Towns of the Merarites
538	Josh 21,8	15	61	146	8031/124	P	
539	Josh 21,9	14+	55		8045		Towns from Judah & Simeon
540	Josh 21,10	12/26	50		8057		Special emphasis: 26 .
541	Josh 21,11	14	57		8071		
542	Josh 21,12	10	38		8081/50	S	
543	Josh 21,13	16+	60		8097		Cities from the two tribes
544	Josh 21,14	8+	30		8105		
545	Josh 21,15	8+	28		8113		
546	Josh 21,16	19/51(3x17)	67		8132/51	P	Special emphasis: 51 (3x17) .

547	Josh 21,17	10+	38		8142		The towns from Benjamin
548	Josh 21,18	10+	39		8152		
549	Josh 21,19	9+	37		8161/29	S	
550	Josh 21,20	12+	54		8173		The towns from Ephraim Special emphasis is laid on towns from these tribes: 68 (4x17).
551	Josh 21,21	16+	56		8189		
552	Josh 21,22	11/68(4x17)	42		8200/39	S	
553	Josh 21,23	10+	37		8210		The towns from Dan
554	Josh 21,24	11+	39		8221/21	S	
555	Josh 21,25	14+	53		8235		The towns from half Manasseh
556	Josh 21,26	8+	37		8243/22	S	
557	Josh 21,27	22+	88		8265/22	S	The towns from half Manasseh The towns from Issachar
558	Josh 21,28	10+	39		8275		
559	Josh 21,29	11+	40		8286/21	S	The towns from Asher
560	Josh 21,30	10+	37		8296		
561	Josh 21,31	10+	36		8306/20	S	The towns from Naphtali 21,23-33 highlighted: 136 .
562	Josh 21,32	22+	80		8328		
563	Josh 21,33	8/136(8x17)	36		8336/30	S	
564	Josh 21,34	16+	67		8352		The towns from Zebulun Special emphasis on Zebulun: 26 .
565	Josh 21,35	10/26	36		8362		
566	Josh 21,36	10	38		8372		
567	Josh 21,37	10	39		8382/46	S	
568	Josh 21,38	15+	54		8397		The towns from Gad Special emphasis on Gad: 26 .
569	Josh 21,39	11/26	39		8408		
570	Josh 21,40	13	62		8421		
571	Josh 21,41	11	49		8432		
572	Josh 21,42	11	49		8443/61	S	
573	Josh 21,43	13	51	147	8456		God has fulfilled his promises No promise has failed; all of them came to pass: 34 !
574	Josh 21,44	20+	77	148-149	8476		
575	Josh 21,45	14/34(2x17)	44	150	8490/47	P	
55 vss	§8 20-21	755	2935	8x	755		

Observation 8 In §8 39 of the 55 verses (71%) and 556 of the 755 words (74%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighting in Column 8 is self-explanatory.

The three last verses (21,43-45) clearly show that §8 is a close-knit literary unit, because it is rounded off by an unmistakable concluding statement:

*“YHWH has given Israel all the land he had sworn to give to their forefathers....
not a word of his promises to the house of Israel went unfulfilled; they all came true.”*

This is additional evidence proving that Chapters 20-21 are inextricably linked to the passage dealing with the distribution of land to the **11** tribes (13-19). The allocation of land to the **12** tribes can only be regarded as accomplished when the Levites are in possession of their cities and the Transjordanian tribes are settled in the lots allocated to them by Moses. See page 5 of the introduction above.

§9 22,1-34 The Return of the Transjordanian Tribes and the Threat of Civil War

Vss	Text	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
576	Josh 22,1	8+	35		8498	Jo 35	1-6 The Transjordanian Tribes
577	Josh 22,2	2+16=18/26+	68	151	8516		Joshua dispatches them and gives
578	Josh 22,3	16+	60	152	8532		them his blessing.
579	Josh 22,4	24+	94	153-154	8556		Joshua: 10+ 86=96
580	Josh 22,5	30+	121	155-156	8586		The entire paragraph is highlighted
581	Josh 22,6	6/102(6x17)	30		8592/102	S	by its 102 words.
582	Josh 22,7	21	84		8613		7-12 The return of these tribes
583	Josh 22,8	3+20=23	102		8636	Jo 36	Joshua: 3+ 20=23
584	Josh 22,9	31	110	157	8667		
585	Josh 22,10	22	86		8689		
586	Josh 22,11	4+22=26	95		8715		Rapport: 4+22=26 They have built
587	Josh 22,12	12	50		8727/135	P	an illegal altar: 26!
588	Josh 22,13	21	73		8748		13-20 Accused of rebellion
589	Josh 22,14	19	73		8767		
590	Josh 22,15	17	59		8784		Israelites: 17+104=121 They go to
591	Josh 22,16	22+	88	158-160	8806		the Transjordanian tribes: 17.
592	Josh 22,17	16+	56	161	8822		The words spoken by the Israelites
593	Josh 22,18	16+	62	162-163	8838		are specifically highlighted: 104.
594	Josh 22,19	31+	124	164-167	8869		
595	Josh 22,20	19/104(4x26)	61		8888/161	P	
596	Josh 22,21	13+	52		8901		21-29 Their response in defence
597	Josh 22,22	20+	74	168-170	8921		The Eastern tribes: 13+163=176
598	Josh 22,23	19/52(2x26)	79	171-172	8940		We swear we are innocent: 52!
599	Josh 22,24	18+	71	173	8958		
600	Josh 22,25	23+	92	174-176	8981		The altar was not meant for any
601	Josh 22,26	11/52(2x26)	40		8992		offerings; only to be a witness: 52!
602	Josh 22,27	25+	116	177-178	9017		Future generations will realize that
603	Josh 22,28	26/51(3x17)	104	179	9043		the altar is only a witness: 51!
604	Josh 22,29	21	92	180-182	9064/176	P	
605	Josh 22,30	22	93		9086		30-34 The dispute is settled
606	Josh 22,31	14+18=32	116	183-185	9118		Phinehas: 14+18=32
607	Josh 22,32	23	88		9141		
608	Josh 22,33	24	96		9165		
609	Josh 22,34	6+7=13	51	186	9178/60	P	Reuben & Gad: 6+7=13
34 vss	§ 9 22,1-34	688	2695	36x	688		13-22 has 4063 (239x17) words.

Observation 9 In §9 (22,1-34) 22 of the 34 verses (65%) and 421 of the 688 words (61%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighting in Column 8 is self-explanatory.

Part III: §§ 7-9 (13-22), deals with the distribution of the land and the settlement, which is only accomplished and fulfilled when the Transjordanian tribes have returned to the lots allocated to them by Moses. Therefore, Chapter 22 strictly belongs to Part III.

The unity of Part III is numerically underpinned by the fact that it is made up of altogether 4063 words (2620+755+688=4063), which is a multiple of the divine name number 17 (239x17). The use of a multiple of 17 is to stress numerically that the conquest of the land *as well as the settlement of all 12 tribes* are authorized by YHWH. This is additional evidence that Joshua 22 belongs to Part III.

Part IV: 23-24 Joshua's Farewell Address, the Shechem Covenant and his Death

§10 23,1-16 Joshua's Farewell Address

Vss	Texts	Words	Lett.	יהוה	Sum wads.	P/S	
610	Josh 23,1	15+	64	187	9193	Jo 37	Joshua: 25+274=299
611	Josh 23,2	10+4=14+	71		9207		
612	Josh 23,3	18+	70	188-189	9225		Vs. 1-13 The introduction and the first
613	Josh 23,4	19+	81		9244		part of Joshua's speech, in which he
614	Josh 23,5	16+	73	190-191	9260		reminds the Israelites of all YHWH has
615	Josh 23,6	15+	61		9275		done for them, and admonishes them to
616	Josh 23,7	18+	80		9293		remain faithful to their God by keeping
617	Josh 23,8	10+	38	192	9303		the law of Moses and refraining from
618	Josh 23,9	14+	58	193	9317		committing idolatry, are made up of
619	Josh 23,10	14+	49	194	9331		208 (8x26) words.
620	Josh 23,11	7+	35	195	9338		
621	Josh 23,12	17+	71		9355		
622	Josh 23,13	31/208(8x26)	135	196-197	9386		
623	Josh 23,14	33	122	198	9419		
624	Josh 23,15	32+	121	199-201	9451		V. 16 Joshua's stern warning against
625	Josh 23,16	26/58=יהושע	110	202-203	9477/299	P	idolatry is specifically highlighted: 26.
16 vss	§10 23,1-16	299	1239	17x	299		יהושע = 10+5+6+21+16=58

Observation 10 In §10 (23,1-16) 14 of the 16 verses (88%) and 241 of the 299 words (81%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. However, the highlighting of the specific passages is particularly significant as can be seen in Column 8, where the twelve instances are self-explanatory.

Joshua's impressive admonitory address to all Israel (23,1-16) is concluded by 58 words containing a stern warning against idolatry. The number 58 can be explained as Joshua's 'signature' represented by the numerical value of his name: יהושע=10+5+6+21+16=58.

For more examples of this interesting device, see my analysis of Genesis, [Part IV](#) page 3 ([Abram](#)) and page 15 ([Rebecca](#)), and in [Part V](#) pages 18-19 ([Jacob](#)), as well as Observation 1 in [Deuteronomy Part I](#) ([Moses](#)) and Observation 2 in my analysis of [1Samuel](#) ([Samuel](#)).

In the book as a whole Joshua speaks 42x and altogether 1556 words.

§10 Joshua's Making of the Shechem Covenant, his Death and Burial

Vss	Texts	Words	Lett.	יהוה	Sum wds.	P/S	Compositional Structure
626	Josh 24,1	16	80		9493		1-15 Joshua's confronting speech
627	Josh 24,2	5+5+"13"=23	94	204	9516	Jo 38	Joshua: 21+256=277
628	Josh 24,3 A	"19	67		9535	DS 17	YHWH's message quoted: "197" words.
629	Josh 24,4	"17	64		9552	"197"	V. 4 deals with the birth of Jacob and
630	Josh 24,5	"14+	56		9566		Esau, the donation of Seir to Esau, and
631	Josh 24,6 B	"14+	68		9580		how Jacob and his descendants came to
632	Josh 24,7	"23/51(3x17)	102	205	9603		sojourn in Egypt: 17.
633	Josh 24,8	"18	81		9621		Vs. 5-7 deal with their stay in Egypt and
634	Josh 24,9 C	"15	60		9636		in the Wilderness: 51.
635	Josh 24,10	"10/43(17+26)	42		9646		Vs. 8-10 deal with their stay in the land
636	Josh 24,11	"20+	97		9666		of the Amorites: 43.
637	Josh 24,12 D	"14/34(2x17)	60		9680		Vs. 11-12 deal with their arrival on the
638	Josh 24,13	"20/ "197"	73		9700/223		west bank of the Jordan (Jericho!): 34.

639	Josh 24,14	20	85	206-207	9720		
640	Josh 24,15	34(2x17)	127	208-209	9754/54	P	Joshua: the decisive choice: 34.
641	Josh 24,16	3+8=11	44	210	9765		16-28 The response of the people
642	Josh 24,17	30	129	211	9795		
643	Josh 24,18	18	67	212-213	9813/59	S	The people: 3+56=59
644	Josh 24,19	4+16=20	77	214	9833		§ 3 Joshua's last words 68 (4x17)
645	Josh 24,20	16	59	215	9849	Jo 39	Joshua: 4+32=36
646	Josh 24,21	4+5=9	29	216	9858		The people: 4+5=9
647	Josh 24,22	4+11+1+1=17	62	217	9875	Jo 40	Joshua: 4+11=15 The people: 1+1=2
648	Josh 24,23	14	54	218	9889	Jo 41	Joshua: 14
649	Josh 24,24	4+6=10	42	219	9899		The people: 4+6=10 The people speak
650	Josh 24,25	11	42		9910		altogether: 56+5+1+6=68 (4x17).
651	Josh 24,26	18	74	220	9928/115	S	This S directs attention to the very last
652	Josh 24,27	5+22=27	97	221	9955	Jo 42	Joshua: 5+22=27 words of Joshua.
653	Josh 24,28	6	24		9961/148	P	
654	Josh 24,29	14+	52	222	9975		29-31 Joshua's death and burial: 26.
655	Josh 24,30	12/26	49		9987		
656	Josh 24,31	24	92	223-224	10011/50		24,31 Cliffhanger!
31 vs	§11 24,1-31	534	2149	21x	534		24,31 Original end of the book.
47 vs	§§10-11 23-24,31	833 (49x17)	3388	38x	833		
353 v	13,1-24,31	4896 (288x17)	19645	110x	4896		

Observation 11 In §11 (24,1-31) 10 of the 31 verses (32%) and 145 of the 534 words (27%) are *additionally* highlighted by 17 and 26. §§10-11 (23,1-24,31) are governed and highlighted in their entirety by their 833 words which are a multiple of 17 (49x17).

Observation 12 That the book originally ended at 24,31 is conclusively proved by the fact that the second half (13,1-24,31) is made up of 4896 words which are a multiple of 17 (288x17).

For the function of 24,31 as a cliffhanger concluding the original version of the book before the Appendix was attached, see the introduction, pages 3-4.

Appendix: 24,32-33 The Burial of Joseph's Bones, Eleazar's Death and Burial

657	Josh 24,32	26	103		10037		Joseph's bones buried in Shechem: 26
658	Josh 24,33	14	52		10051/40		The death and burial of Eleazar.
2 vss	Appendix	40	155	0	40		A secondary addition to the book.
658 vss	1,1-24,33	10051	39807	224x	10051		
MT 656							

Observation 13 Note that the very last verse, dealing with the death and burial of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, is finalized and sealed by its 52 (2x26) letters.

Having established beyond any doubt that 24,32-33 is an Appendix, it is at this stage difficult for me to date the addition. Future study may shed light on the problem, but my assumption is that this happened at the very last stage of the redaction of the Story of Ancient Israel, Genesis-Kings.

The 17 Divine Speeches in the Book of Joshua

Number	Texts	Introductions	Words in the Speeches	Totals
1	1,1f.	15 ויאמר	144	159
2	3,7f.	4 ויאמר	31	35
3	4,1bff.	5 ויאמר	37	221 (13x17)+
4	4,15f.	5 ויאמר	9	14
5	5,2	6 אמר	10+	16
6	5,9f.	4 ויאמר	6+	10
7	5,14	1 ויאמר God's Swordsman	8 God's Swordsman	[9]
8	5,15	6 ויאמר God's Swordsman	12 God's Swordsman	[18]
9	6,2ff.	4 ויאמר	63+	67
10	7,10ff.	4 ויאמר	117+	121
11	8,1f.	4 ויאמר	42+ 42+	46
12	8,18f.	4 ויאמר	9+ 9=51(3x17)	13
13	10,8f.	4 ויאמר	11+	15
14	11,6	4 ויאמר	21/520 (20x26)	25
15	13,1ff.	7 ויאמר	96	103
16	20,1ff.	5 וידבר	104 (4x26)/720	109/802
17	24,9ff	5 כה־אמר יהוה אל־יִשְׂרָאֵל	"197"	202
17 DSS	1,1-24,33	87	917	1004

Observation 15 Speech 16 stands out, first, by the fact that וידבר is used instead of ויאמר, and second, because of its 104 (4x26) words by which it is especially highlighted as YHWH's last speech. The other significant features are that 1-4 have altogether 221 (13x17) words, that 11-12 (Chapter 8) have 51 (3x17) words, and that 1-14 (Chapters 1-12) have altogether 520 (20x26) words.

Speech 17 is not an address YHWH actually delivered, but words attributed to him by Joshua as a message he has to convey to the people. In the Books of the Torah I consistently regarded such divine messages as part of the narrative. The author/redactor of Joshua apparently regarded YHWH's words as a real speech in order to achieve altogether 17 divine speeches. This is another point of difference between the book of Joshua and the Books of the Torah.

PS Klaas Eikelenboom has drawn my attention to the fact that all words spoken by humans (that is to say, excluding the divine speeches) amount to 2574 (99x26) words.

I am deeply indebted to him for having independently done the counting and computing in Joshua and for his useful suggestions. His research enabled me to verify my counting; it also brought to light information I myself had missed.